Annual Report
on Homelessness Services
In Maryland

Maryland Department of Human Resources
Community Services Administration
Office of Transitional Services

Fiscal Year 2002

State of Maryland

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Governor

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Community Services Administration

The Office of Transitional Services

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Introduction

In State Fiscal Year 1987, the Office of Transitional Services began to collect information annually from emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, and other agencies that provide services to homeless people. The results of this data collection have been published in Annual Reports on Homelessness Services as mandated by the Maryland General Assembly. Utilization of the data is widespread. Service providers, students and teachers, people doing research, government agencies, and others use the data to write reports, prepare grants, and develop new services. The Office of Transitional Services, which administers State and Federal programs serving Maryland citizens who are homeless, offers this report on homelessness services in Maryland.

Please note that other publications are available from the Office of Transitional Services including:

o   The Directory of Maryland Emergency Shelters and Transitional Housing Programs;

o   The Maryland Emergency Food Program (MEFP) Annual Report;

o   The Statewide Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Annual Report.

Copies of this report and the others listed above can be obtained by contacting the Office of Transitional Services on (410) 767-7719. These publications are also available on-line at www.dhr.state.md.us.

The Office of Transitional Services

MISSION

The mission of the Office of Transitional Services is to end hunger and homelessness in Maryland using the provision of food, emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent housing, and supportive services administered through collaborative partnerships with Federal and State programs, local governments, Departments of Social Services, and community-based organizations. The Office administers funding for community-based services by working in partnership with local governments, shelter providers, advocates, consumers, and community agencies in all jurisdictions of the State.

The Office of Transitional Services administered the following programs in FY 2002.

THE HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION PROGRAM (HPP)

HPP funds provide grants to households with a pending eviction and funding for support counselors who work with tenants and landlords to prevent evictions. HPP operates in all 24 Maryland jurisdictions. By providing short-term mediation or linkage to resources, the program helps families and individuals at risk of eviction to stay in their housing. In FY 2002, the program helped prevent evictions for 12,159 households statewide; 2,213 through eviction prevention grants and the remainder through mediation, court action, or other intervention services.

THE EMERGENCY AND TRANSITIONAL HOUSING AND SERVICES PROGRAM (ETHS)

ETHS provides State funding for emergency shelters and transitional housing programs in all 24 Maryland jurisdictions. ETHS funds shelter beds and support services such as food, transportation, and case management. It may also provide eviction/foreclosure prevention assistance. ETHS operates through local governments, with significant involvement of local homelessness services agencies in each jurisdiction. The interaction of local and state groups demonstrates the effective partnerships that are essential for this program. The ETHS program funded approximately 225,000 emergency shelter and transitional housing bednights during FY 2002.

Freezing and Inclement Weather Plans, detailing the resources available in the event of freezing or inclement weather, are submitted to the Office of Transitional Services yearly as part of the ETHS Program. Each jurisdiction designs its own plan for inclement weather. The proposals reflect the involvement of participating local agencies. This cooperation expands the types and quantity of available resources, such as shelter space, security, transportation, food, outreach, and supportive counseling.

THE HOUSING COUNSELOR & AFTERCARE PROGRAM (HCP)

Operating in 5 jurisdictions, this program assists low income families who are homeless, or in imminent danger of becoming homeless, to locate, secure, and maintain permanent housing. Counselors help families establish adequate credit references and to apply for subsidized housing. The counselors can also help families access local public and private resources for the first and last month's rent, security deposits, utility payments, or donations of furniture.

Housing counselors help families to develop and maintain relationships with landlords, often paving the way for people with credit or reference problems to obtain permanent housing. Other assistance may include helping families locate more affordable housing after a rent increase, or helping to find another apartment located near public transportation that is more suitable for a new place of employment. In many of these instances, people are able to remain in housing or to find new housing before being evicted, and as a result, public and private agencies are saved the cost of providing shelter for these households. In FY 2002, 513 households were served by the HCP.

THE SERVICE-LINKED HOUSING PROGRAM (SLH)

The Service-Linked Housing Program provides funds to employ local resident advocates to link low-income residents of permanent housing to community services in 13 jurisdictions. SLH stabilizes households that are in precarious situations, thereby avoiding episodes of homelessness. The local Resident Advocates help link the residents to health services, education, job training, employment, addiction treatment, and other counseling. In FY 2002, the program helped over 2000 households to maintain their permanent housing.

HOMELESS WOMEN-CRISIS SHELTER HOME PROGRAM (HW-CSP)

The Homeless Women-Crisis Shelter Home Program provides shelter, room and board, counseling, and referral services to homeless women and children. The shelters offer a 24-hour crisis hotline in addition to safe accommodations and meals. Other services include direct resource referral for housing, physical and mental health care, education, training, employment services, and case management. This program is located in 13 jurisdictions in Maryland. In FY 2002, the Homeless Women-Crisis Shelter Home Program helped approximately 2000 women and children receive emergency shelter and related services.

THE FEDERAL SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAM (SHP)

Through SHP, the Department of Housing and Urban Development provides funds to local jurisdictions to fill gaps in their continuum of care for homeless persons and families, with a long-term focus on ending homelessness. Funds may be used for permanent housing, supportive services, information systems to count and track services for homeless families and individuals. Through the Shelter Plus Care program. funds are available for rental assistance for disabled homeless people. The State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene administers this program.

Over the past two years, the Office of Transitional Services has changed its role from serving as applicant for seventeen rural jurisdictions to providing technical assistance to local consortia of service providers who now apply directly to HUD for funding. The shift has empowered local jurisdictions to determine their needs, prioritize programs, and coordinate federal funds with local monies. OTS provides assistance through a consultant experienced in the HUD application process, through training and technical assistance, often jointly sponsored with the local HUD office, and through small grants to assist in the writing of the Continuum of Care.

THE EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TEFAP)

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) distributes federal surplus foods to emergency food pantries and soup kitchens. The program operates in a partnership with local governments and community organizations in all of the State's 24 jurisdictions. In federal fiscal year 2002, the U.S. Department of Agriculture provided 495 emergency food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters with 3,857,791 pounds of commodities. These commodities provide a base supply for emergency feeding locations, enabling these sites to

use their resources for the purchase of additional foods. More than 350,000 households in Maryland received TEFAP commodities in FFY 2002. This resulted in 570,408 individual meals and 215,471 households being served.

MARYLAND EMERGENCY FOOD PROGRAM (MEFP)

The Maryland Emergency Food Program (MEFP) provides grants to assist emergency food providers, (including soup kitchens, food pantries, and shelters) in purchasing food for needy individuals and families. It is a complement to The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) because MEFP funds allow providers to purchase the foods that are not available from TEFAP or those which are in short supply. MEFP was funded for FY 2002 at $1,050,000. During the fiscal year, 252 emergency food programs were awarded a total of $1,049,749.65 for the purchase of food.

In FY 2002, there was a significant change to the administration of MEFP. Through FY2001, local administering agencies handled the distribution of funds for the State, most notably, the Center for Poverty Solutions (CPS) which had 17 of the 24 jurisdictions. In the fall of 2001, because CPS found themselves unable to administer the program, OTS assumed responsibility for the allocation of MEFP funding.

STATEWIDE NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

The Statewide Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) funds the purchase of capital equipment for emergency food pantries, shelters, and food banks, such as shelving, refrigerators, freezers, and food handling equipment. In FY 2002, SNAP distributed financial grants to 56 food pantries and emergency feeding organizations. Maryland food banks received $101,777 in SNAP funds and food pantries received $223,223.

HOME-DELIVERED MEALS TO PERSONS WITH HIV/AIDS

The Maryland Legislature allocated $500,000 in FY 2002 for the expansion of home delivered food and nutrition counseling to persons with HIV/AIDS. The program recognizes that many people suffering from the effects of HIV/AIDS have very specific dietary needs. Nutritious meals, prepared in a safe and contamination-free manner, help maintain the immune system and reduce the side effects of some medications. Two programs were enlisted to carry out this function. Food and Friends, based in Washington, D.C. provides services to Southern Maryland (Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties) as well as Frederick, Washington, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. Maryland Community Kitchen, based in Baltimore, has introduced services to eight counties on the Eastern Shore (Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties). The Maryland Community Kitchen also provides outreach services to Baltimore City.

THE ADVISORY BOARD OF THE SHELTER, NUTRITION, AND SERVICES PROGRAM FOR HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS (OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY BOARD ON HOMELESSNESS)

Since its inception in 1984, the Governor's Advisory Board on Homelessness has had the responsibility of advising the Department of Human Resources in regard to issues affecting homelessness such as the effectiveness of programs, the adequacy and clarity of its regulations, and the needs of those who are homeless. The Board also recommends allocations for homeless programs administered by the Office of Transitional Services and works with local boards and coalitions concerned with homelessness.

The Board consists of two appointed members from each of the eight congressional districts in Maryland. Board members provide a variety of functions in their advisory capacity. Among those functions, members provide the following:

- Connecting with local homeless boards in their jurisdictions to foster communication with the Maryland Department of Human Resources and to be informed on critical issues.

- Advocating for the interests of people who are homeless while promoting public awareness of relevant issues.

- Participating in special projects. During the previous two years the Board has developed recommendations on issues pertaining to mental illness and substance abuse as well as the development of a proposal for Standards of Care for shelters and shelter staff.

This diverse group of citizens has extensive experience and expertise in the development and evaluation of programs for persons experiencing homelessness. Activities the Board is currently involved with are subcommittees addressing:

o   Interagency coordination;

o   Access to mental health and substance abuse treatment;

o   Standards for shelters;

Annual Data Collection On Homelessness Services

METHODOLOGY

This report is based on information gathered from surveying homeless shelters. This survey has been conducted using a consistent format since fiscal year 1987. At the end of the fiscal year, a questionnaire is mailed to all known providers of emergency and transitional shelters, as well as programs that provide motel placements for people who are homeless. The survey requests data about the shelter program and the people served. Data is requested for the previous fiscal year (July 1 - June 30). All known providers of overnight shelter in Maryland are surveyed, not just those that receive State or Federal funding. Services other than overnight stays, such as daytime drop-in services, referral services, food or clothing assistance, and case management, are not counted by this study.

The information from the survey is compiled and summarized by the Office of Transitional Services. A key contact person in each jurisdiction reviews the data before it is published. Because the methodology of this study has not significantly changed since its inception, this report can be a useful tool in gauging the extent to which people access homeless shelter services in Maryland.

ASSUMPTIONS AND DEFINITIONS

Counting the number of people who are homeless is a difficult task. Sociologists and statisticians use many methods to measure homelessness. Because of the difficulties of counting the entire homeless population, the Office of Transitional Services gathers information only on those people who have stayed in an emergency shelter, transitional housing program or who have been given a motel placement. The data in this report, therefore, reflects only the number of homeless persons who receive shelter as reported by local agencies on the Office of Transitional Services' Homelessness Survey form. This data in this report does not include people who are homeless but have not been served by the shelter system. **This study is not intended to be an absolute count of the number of homeless people in Maryland**.

This method of measuring homelessness counts only the number of people served by homelessness services agencies that completed and submitted the FY 2002 Homelessness Services Survey to the Office of Transitional Services. Some data presented in this report include estimates provided by survey respondents and, in some cases, estimates for non-responding service providers which is based on prior years' survey submissions.

Jurisdictions with no formal shelter system, or with incomplete information about local shelter programs, may appear to have fewer homeless people receiving services than is actually the case. This study does not attempt to count the number of people experiencing homelessness, but instead measures the use of shelter services as reported by local agencies across Maryland.

An assumption inherent in this survey is that duplication exists in the reported number of people served by shelters. People who stay in more than one shelter during the fiscal year will be counted by each shelter. There currently is no workable way to avoid this duplication.

For the purposes of this report, people are considered homeless if they received overnight shelter in an emergency, motel, or transitional facility that serves homeless people. While acknowledging the existence of people who are living in overcrowded housing or in unsuitable housing, and those who, for whatever reason, do not access needed shelter, this report can include statistics only for those who are served by shelters and providers of homeless services. It is important to emphasize that the **number of people served** reported in this study is not an absolute count of all the homeless people in Maryland. It is also not an absolute count of the number of different people served during the fiscal year.

A "**bednight**" is the most accurate and unduplicated unit of measure to study the use of homeless shelters. Each night a shelter bed is filled by a person is considered one bednight. If one bed is used for an entire week, the total number of bednights for the week is seven. If a shelter with five beds is fully occupied for a week, the total number of bednights is thirty-five (seven multiplied by five). Because the bednight count is unduplicated, it is a more accurate measure of the provision of shelter service than the number of people served, which may include duplication between shelters.

Each time an individual is refused shelter or a motel placement because of a program's lack of space or funds, it is defined as a **turnaway**. Not all shelter facilities keep track of turnaways, so the number of turnaways reported reflects only the number of turnaways reported by agencies that collect and report turnaway data. Some shelter facilities report an estimated number of turnaways. Also, there is no way to track the number of times a person or family is turned away from different facilities before finding a shelter that can accommodate them.

Shelter facilities were asked whether they provide emergency shelter, transitional housing, or undesignated shelter, and whether they are open year-round or only part of the year. The Office of Transitional Services allows each facility to identify itself as it sees fit. In general terms, stays in emergency shelters are short term. Stays in transitional shelters are longer term, from three months to two years, and include more services, housing counseling, and/or case management. Some providers pay for emergency motel placements for people, providing bednights when the facility has no beds available or not enough beds.

The **average length of stay** in Maryland shelters is calculated by dividing the number of bednights by the number of people served. Using this simple method, one can find both the average length of stay for all types of placements combined (emergency, transitional, and motel placements), and the average length of a stay for each of the three types of placements (emergency shelter, transitional shelter, or motel placements). The data, however, applies only to nights spent in the fiscal year period of the survey. The clock begins July 1. Some transitional shelters allow residents to stay for two or more years. If a shelter is full for all 365 days, but each bed turns over once (serves two different people that fiscal year), then each person's "average" length of stay is 182.5 days, although a person may actually stay for over a year, including the days not in that fiscal year. Therefore, this average does not necessarily reflect the actual average length of a shelter stay, but can be used to compare to prior years.

Local homeless service agencies also submit demographic information about people served. **Age**, **household composition**, **gender,** and **ethnicity** are the four areas about which data is collected. It is important to note that some providers do not keep demographic data on their customers, so demographic totals for each jurisdiction may not equal the reported total number of people served.

Data Collection Results

SHELTERS and BEDS

Each year new shelters open and others close. There were 195 known providers of emergency shelter, transitional shelter, and motel placements in Maryland in FY 2002. This is an increase from 190 known providers in FY 2001. This report includes data from 11 shelter providers that had not been included in prior reports. It is important to note that some of the shelters that closed in FY 2002 contributed significantly to the statistics reported for FY 2001. This fact may account, in part, for changes in some data categories for some jurisdictions and statewide.

There were 5,775 emergency, transitional, and undesignated beds in Maryland shelters, an increase of 184 beds from FY 2001. There were more transitional housing beds than emergency shelter beds available in Maryland. Shelter providers reported an increase of 112 emergency shelter beds, an increase of 102 transitional housing beds, and a decrease of 30 "undesignated" beds in FY 2002 as compared with FY 2001.   Some shelters categorize their beds as "undesignated" when the beds are used as either transitional housing or emergency shelter depending on the need.

The graph below shows the number of shelter beds by type (emergency, transitional, or undesignated) in Maryland for the past 5 years.

Maryland Homeless Shelter Beds by Type: FY 1998 - FY 2002

Year	Emergency	Transitional	Undesignated
FY98	2,034	2,397	327
FY99	2,505	3,063	174
FY00	2,696	2,842	129
FY01	2,589	2,840	162
FY02	2,701	2,942	132
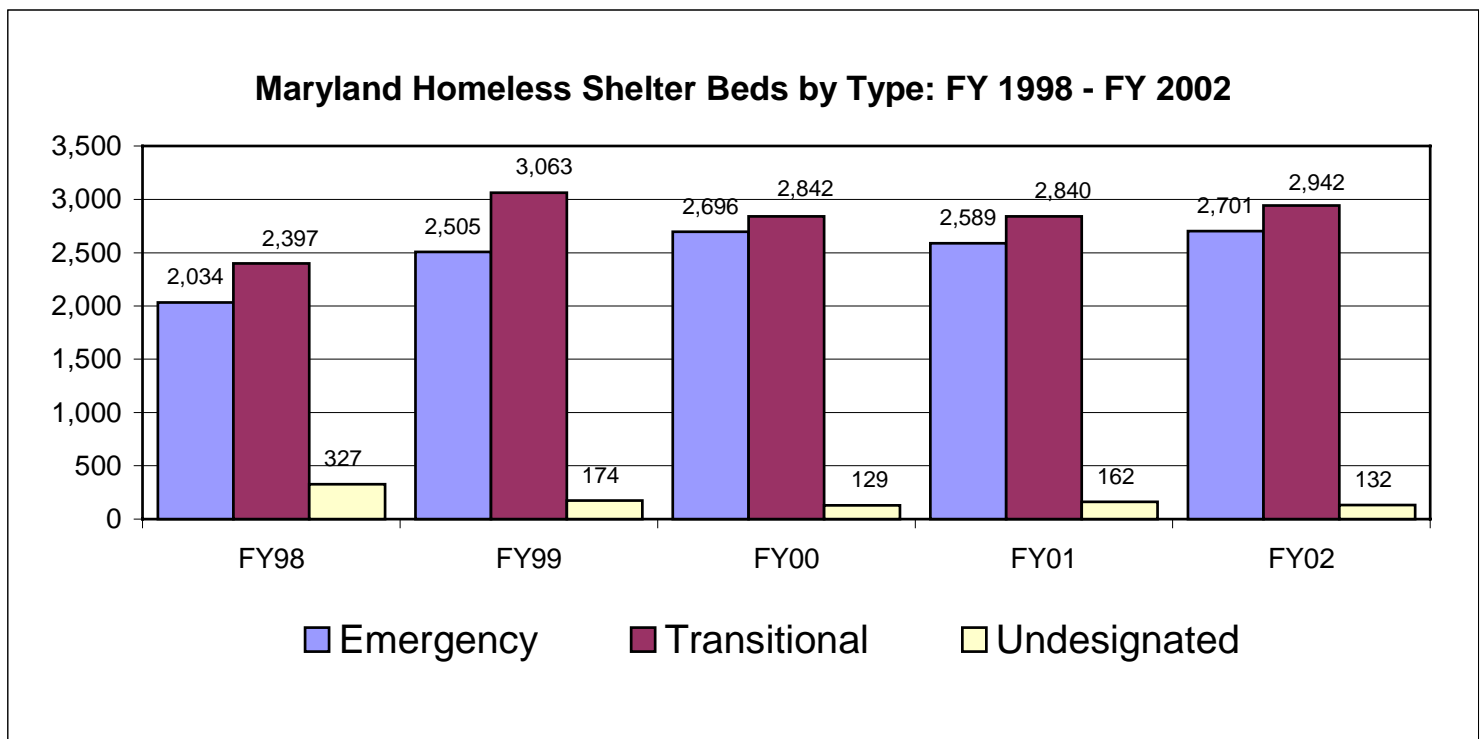
The table below shows the number and type of shelter beds reported available in each Maryland jurisdiction in FY 2002. There were 184 more shelter beds reported available in FY 2002 than FY 2001.

SHELTER BEDS IN MARYLAND
by Jurisdiction
State Fiscal Year 2002

Jurisdiction	Emergency	Transitional	Undesignated	Total	Change from FY 01
Allegany	81	59	30	170	0
Anne Arundel	133	78	10	221	-13
Baltimore City	1,020	1,085	0	2,105	+127
Baltimore County	136	71	10	217	+29
Calvert	40	33	0	73	+18
Caroline	0	46	0	46	0
Carroll	87	49	10	146	+2
Cecil	38	38	12	88	+1
Charles	0	16	52	68	0
Dorchester	9	10	0	19	0
Frederick	89	235	4	328	+66
Garrett	15	0	0	15	0
Harford	49	46	0	95	-16
Howard	41	88	0	129	+2
Kent	0	0	0	0	0
Montgomery	380	573	0	953	+39
Prince George's	287	390	4	681	-2
Queen Anne's	0	0	0	0	0
St. Mary's	4	12	0	16	0
Somerset	0	0	0	0	0
Talbot	0	8	0	8	0
Washington	202	55	0	257	-15
Wicomico	58	28	0	86	-78
Worcester	32	22	0	54	+24
TOTAL	2,701	2,942	132	5,775	+184

BEDNIGHTS

   Counting bednights measures the number of nights each shelter bed was occupied. This figure is reported by the type of shelter bed (emergency, transitional, or motel placement). In FY 2002, a total of 1,677,268 bednights were reported provided. This is a decrease of 71,389 bednights as compared to FY 2001.

Bednights Provided By Maryland Shelters
FY 1998 through FY 2002

FY	Bednights
FY 98	1,332,913
FY 99	1,435,401
FY 00	1,663,553
FY 01	1,748,657
FY 02	1,677,268
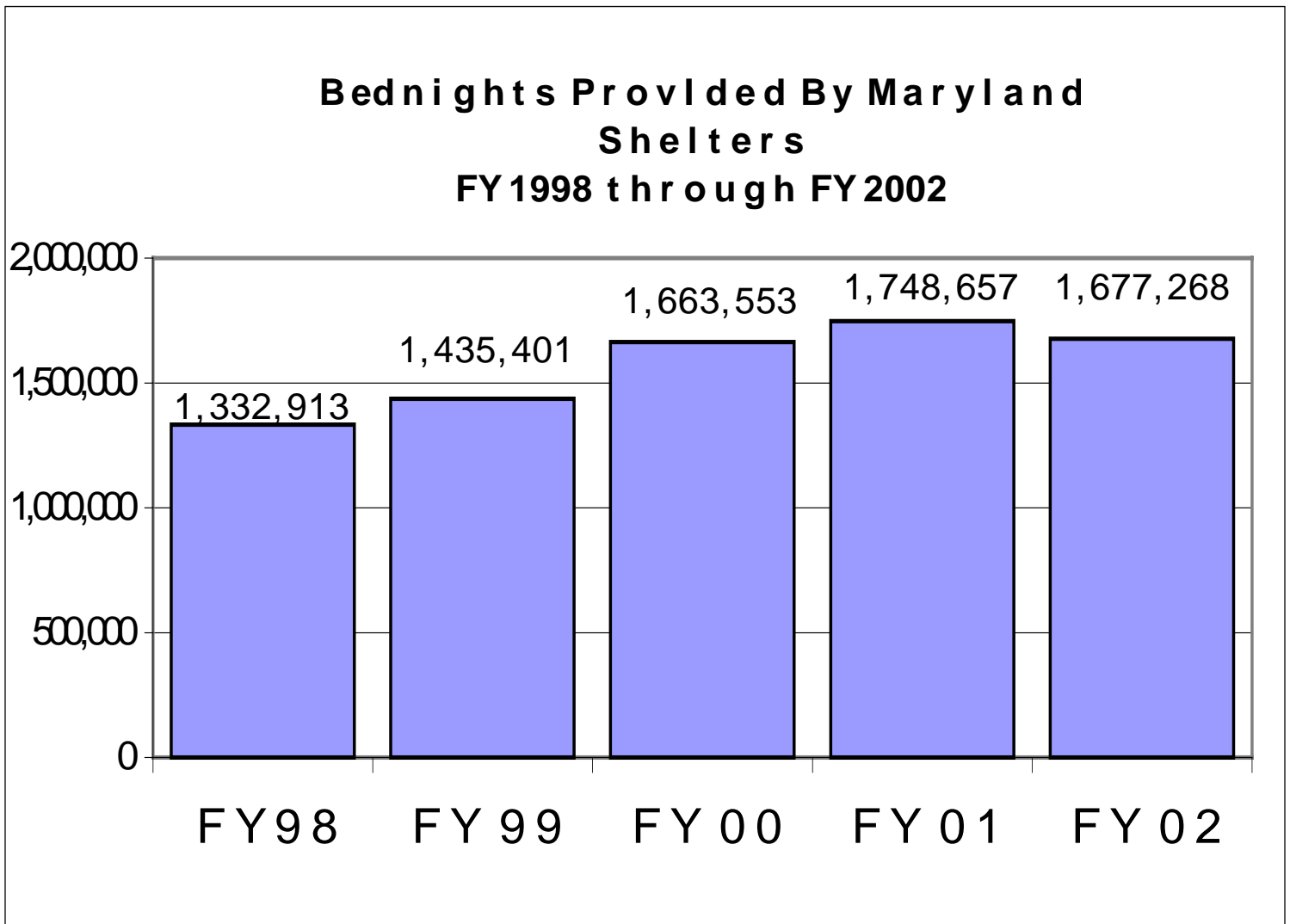
Bednights provided by transitional shelters comprised 53 percent of all bednights reported in FY 2002. There were 888,527 transitional bednights, 706,715 emergency bednights, and 82,026 motel bednights. The graph below shows the number of bednights provided over the past five years by type of shelter bed provided.

Bednights by Type FY 1998 - FY 2002

	Emergency	Transitional	Motel
FY98	598,796	700,163	33,954
FY99	596,693	807,325	31,383
FY00	745,443	870,073	48,037
FY01	765,318	926,758	56,581
FY02	706,715	888,527	82,026
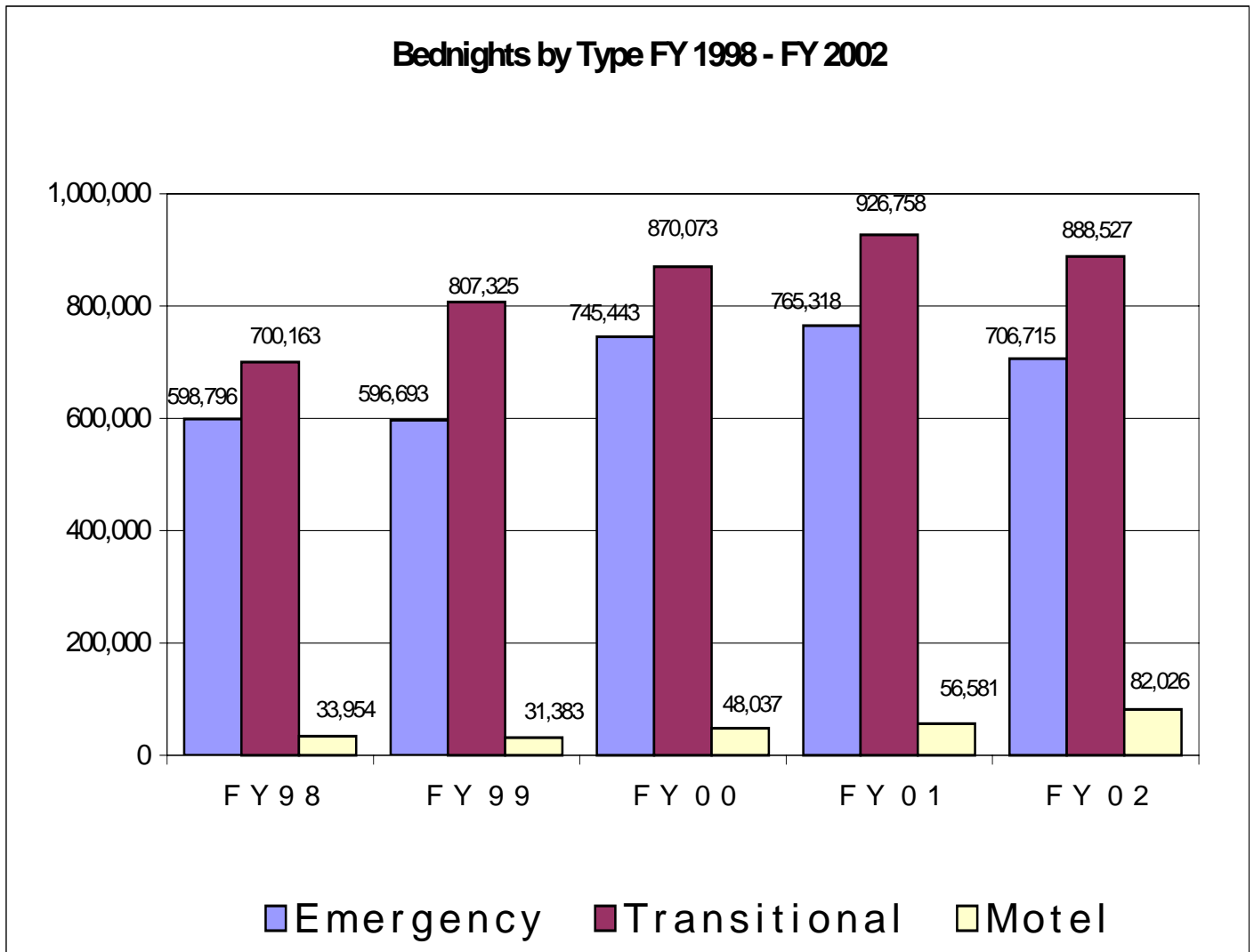
The following chart shows the number of bednights reported in FY 2002, by type of bednight, for each jurisdiction in Maryland.

Bednights Provided by Jurisdiction FY 2002

Jurisdiction	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Shelter	Motel Placements	Total Bednights	Change from FY 2001
Allegany	8,161	13,724	7	21,892	-1,520
Anne Arundel	37,747	22,661	2,160	62,568	-752
Baltimore City	293,517	360,235	870	654,622	-75,035
Baltimore County	34,682	20,675	1,791	57,148	+5,490
Calvert	6,721	9,991	332	17,044	+6,726
Caroline	0	6,078	55	6,133	+28
Carroll	17,630	17,970	356	35,956	+2,832
Cecil	7,688	18,970	1,188	27,846	+1,337
Charles	9,584	10,081	2,005	21,670	-748
Dorchester	1,730	2,392	89	4,211	+718
Frederick	22,046	43,258	738	66,042	-1,446
Garrett	872	0	106	978	+266
Harford	11,610	12,336	2,838	26,784	+418
Howard	13,722	26,001	6,972	46,695	+1,500
Kent	0	0	50	50	-75
Montgomery	103,164	189,327	53,330	345,821	+25,870
Prince George's	82,922	105,890	1,952	190,764	-39,638
Queen Anne's	0	0	9	9	0
St. Mary's	2,090	2,044	4,274	8,408	+1,399
Somerset	0	0	153	153	0
Talbot	0	1,774	38	1,812	+381
Washington	33,483	15,853	1,725	51,061	+4,940
Wicomico	14,013	8,477	920	23,410	-4,702
Worcester	5,333	790	68	6,191	+622
TOTAL	706,715	888,527	82,026	1,677,268	-71,389

OCCUPANCY

It is important to relate the number of available beds to the number of bednights. These two indicators are not affected by duplication so comparing the two can be useful. There were 3.3 percent more beds available and 4.1 percent fewer bednights provided in FY 2002 as compared to FY 2001. Therefore, the overall average number of bednights per bed was less in FY 2002 as compared to FY 2001. The statewide overall average number of bednights per bed was 285 in Maryland in FY 2002. The number of nights per bed decreased for both emergency shelter and transitional housing in FY 2002 compared to FY 2001. The chart below shows the average number of bednights per bed for emergency shelter, transitional housing and the overall average for the past five years.

Nights per Bed FY 1998 to FY 2002 Emergency Shelter, Transtional Housing, & Overall Average

	Emergency	Transitional	Overall
FY 98	254	292	273
FY 99	245	264	255
FY 00	264	306	285
FY 01	278	326	303
FY 02	257	313	285
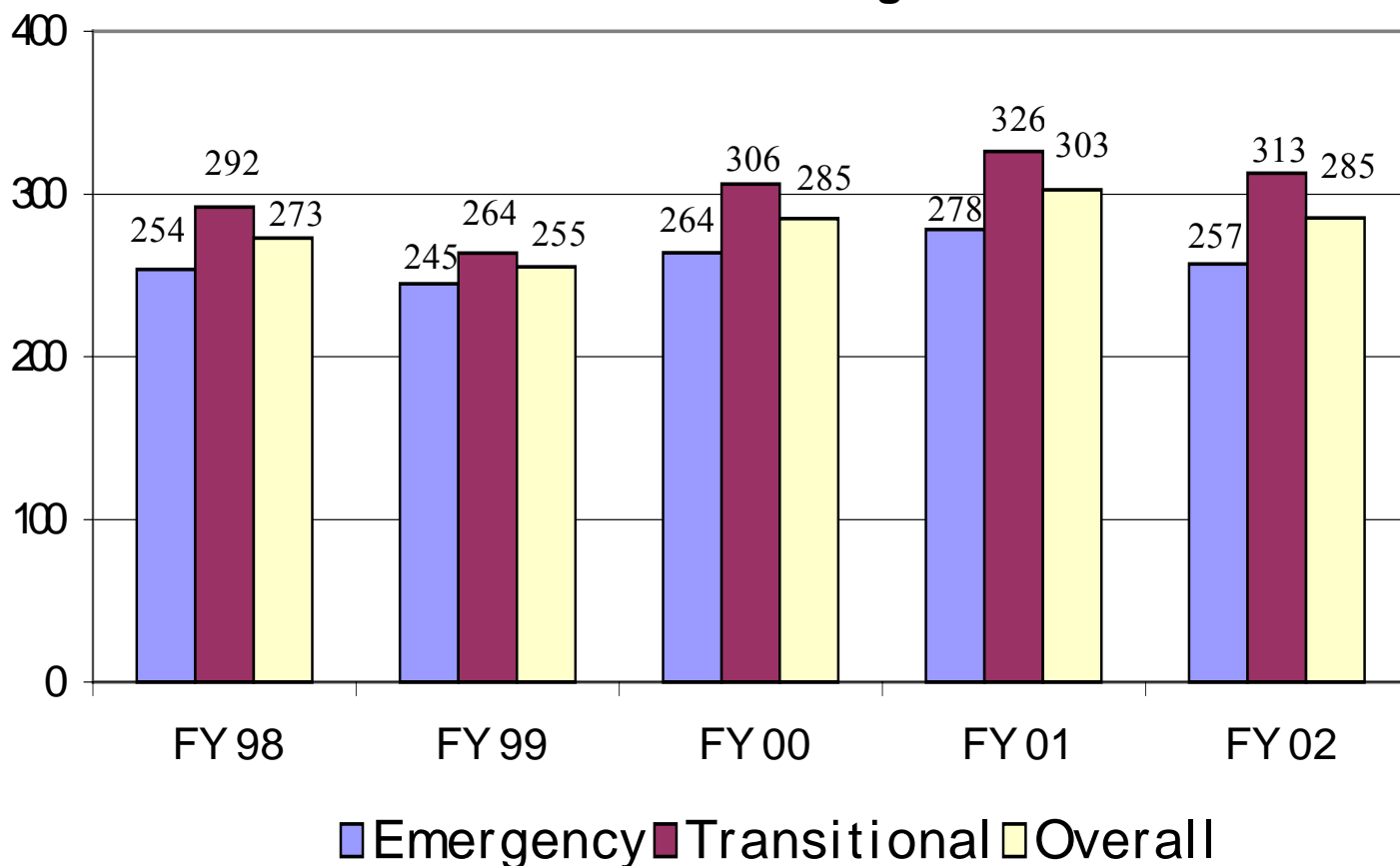
NUMBER OF PEOPLE SHELTERED

The total number of people who were served by Maryland's homeless shelters in FY 2002 was 52,973. This is a 16.8% increase from 45,360 people served in FY 2001. The chart below shows the number of people sheltered, by type of shelter, over the last five years.

Number of People Served by Maryland Shelters
FY 1998 - FY 2002

	FY98	FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02
Total	41,222	47,035	51,917	45,316	52,973
Emergency Shelter	27,812	31,475	36,231	31,947	38,781
Motel Placements	7,750	6,881	6,524	6,099	7,287
Transitional Housing	5,660	8,679	9,162	7,314	6,905

☐ Transitional Housing   ☐ Motel Placements   ☐ Emergency Shelter
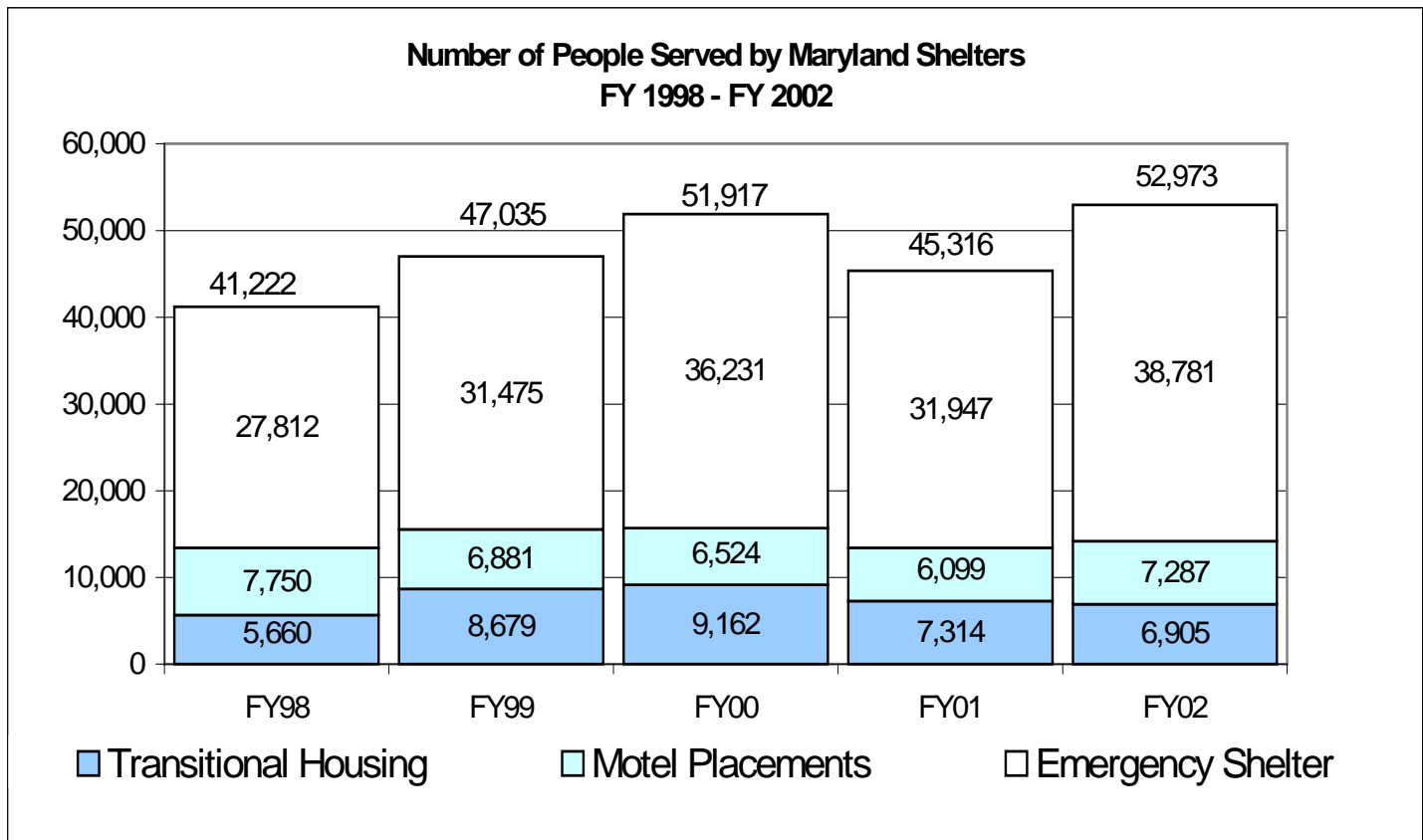
The number of people served, as reported by Maryland's known homeless shelters, was higher in FY 2002 than was reported for FY 2001. However, it is difficult to draw conclusions from this figure. It is also important to note that the rate of duplication – the same person being reported by different shelters - is unknown. Although shelters are becoming more sophisticated in keeping records of whom they serve, there is no working system to coordinate reporting of people between shelters, and especially across jurisdictions.

The table below shows the number of people served as reported by emergency shelters, transitional housing, and by motel placements in twenty-three counties and Baltimore City.

Number of People Sheltered by Jurisdiction FY 2002

Jurisdiction	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Motel Placements	Total Served	Change from FY 01	Percent of State
Allegany	337	119	7	463	-16	0.9%
Anne Arundel	777	128	271	1,176	-178	2.2%
Baltimore City	26,497	3,107	870	30,474	+6,319	57.5%
Baltimore County	972	235	390	1,597	-73	3.0%
Calvert	261	47	95	403	+17	0.8%
Caroline	0	62	12	74	-3	0.1%
Carroll	436	91	35	562	+61	1.1%
Cecil	463	316	271	1,050	+163	2.0%
Charles	247	75	543	865	+247	1.6%
Dorchester	122	42	33	197	+33	0.4%
Frederick	420	483	320	1,223	-479	2.3%
Garrett	29	0	57	86	-10	0.2%
Harford	326	114	552	992	+236	1.9%
Howard	201	102	323	626	-13	1.2%
Kent	0	0	40	40	-20	0.1%
Montgomery	2,884	858	1,974	5,716	+651	10.8%
Prince George's	1,605	827	331	2,763	-33	5.2%
Queen Anne's	0	0	3	3	0	0.0%
St. Mary's	77	19	352	448	+76	0.8%
Somerset	0	0	22	22	-1	0.0%
Talbot	0	24	38	62	+3	0.1%
Washington	1,552	160	635	2,347	+468	4.4%
Wicomico	1,157	80	102	1,339	+75	2.5%
Worcester	418	16	11	445	+90	0.8%
TOTAL	38,781	6,905	7,287	52,973	+7,613	100%

TURN-AWAY OCCASIONS

Shelter providers reported that on 40,039 occasions people were refused shelter or motel placements because of lack of space or lack of funds during FY 2002. There were 12,749 more turn-away occasions reported for FY 2002 as compared to FY 2001.

An accurate count of turn-away occasions would give information on the unmet need for homeless shelter beds. However, several providers do not collect turn-away occasion data. When shelters report that turn-away occasion data is not collected, the number of turn-away occasions is reported as zero when data is compiled for this report. Some shelter providers estimate the number of turn-away occasions. Estimates by shelter providers are included in the data compiled for this report.

Additionally, the degree to which duplication exists in the reporting of turn-away occasions, as a person or family looks to several shelters before finding a bed, is unknown.

The chart below shows the number of turn-away occasions reported in each jurisdiction as well as the change in the reported total number of turn-away occasions for FY 2002 when compared to FY 2001.

Turn-away Occasions by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Turn-away Occassions	Change from FY 01
Allegany	306	+67
Anne Arundel	2,051	+1,106
Baltimore City	15,684	+8,878
Baltimore County	6,888	+212
Calvert	162	+82
Caroline	130	0
Carroll	326	+33
Cecil	398	+8
Charles	821	-18
Dorchester	42	+25
Frederick	1,453	+64
Garrett	0	0
Harford	2,339	+1,720
Howard	2,908	-169
Kent	0	0
Montgomery	2,348	+127
Prince George's	1,617	+174
Queen Anne's	0	0
St. Mary's	7	-72
Somerset	0	0
Talbot	53	0
Washington	250	0
Wicomico	2,072	+683
Worcester	184	-171
TOTAL	40,039	+12,749

The graph below show statewide turn-away occasions figures from FY 1998 to FY 2002.

Reported Turn-away Occasions
FY 1998 - 2002

Fiscal Year	Reported Turn-away Occasions
FY 98	33,451
FY 99	31,373
FY 00	32,258
FY 01	27,290
FY 02	40,039
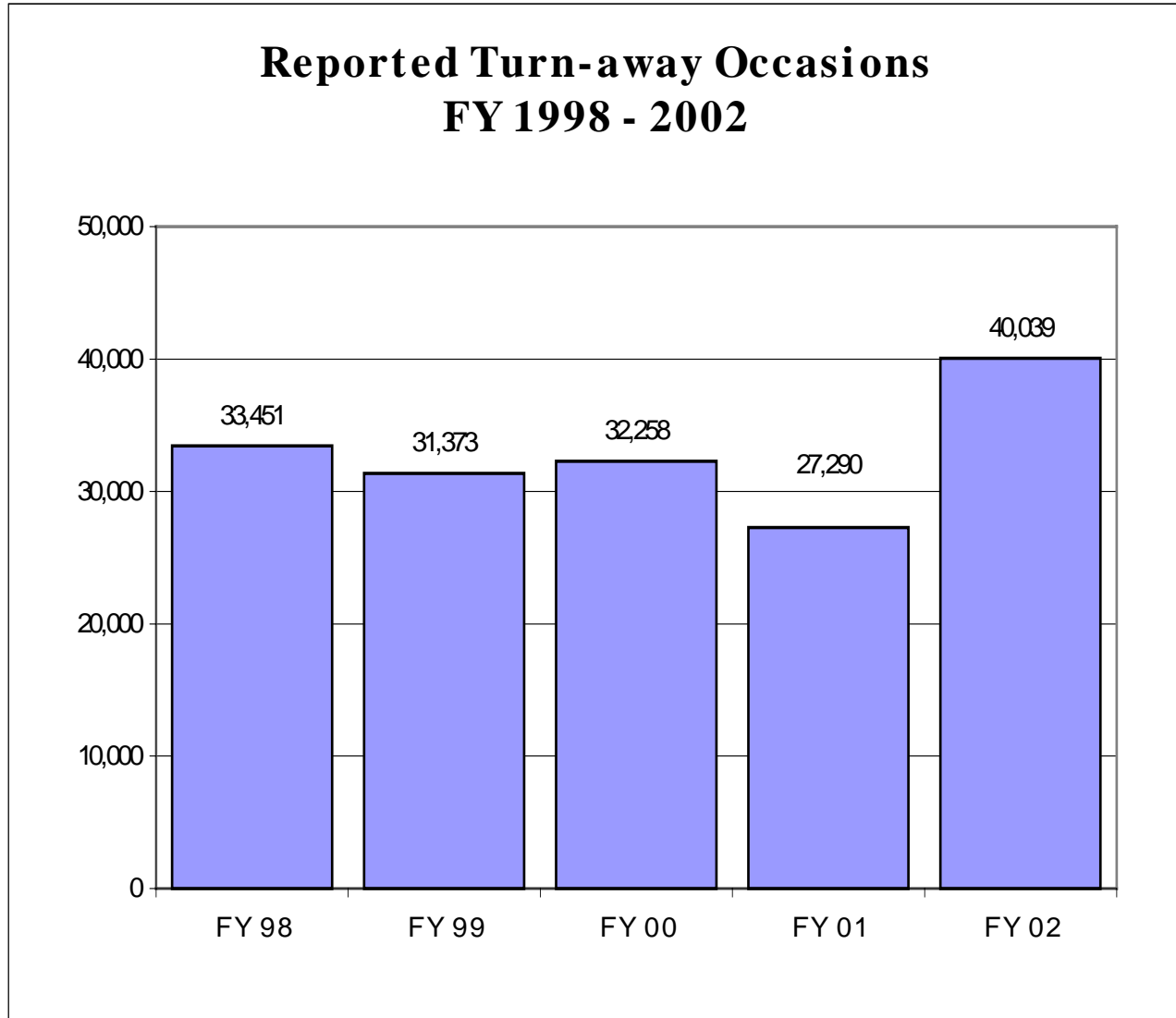
AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY

The overall average number of nights in FY 2002 a person stayed in a homeless service placement was 32. The overall average length of stay decreased by 7 nights from FY 2001. The average stay in an emergency shelter was 18 nights, 11 nights for a motel placement, and 129 nights in a transitional shelter. The graph below illustrates the change in average length of shelter stays during the past five years, by type of shelter.

Average Length of Shelter Stay in Days
FY 1998 -FY 2002

	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02
Transitional	124	93	95	127	129
Overall	32	31	32	39	32
Emergency	22	19	21	24	18
Motel	4	5	7	9	11
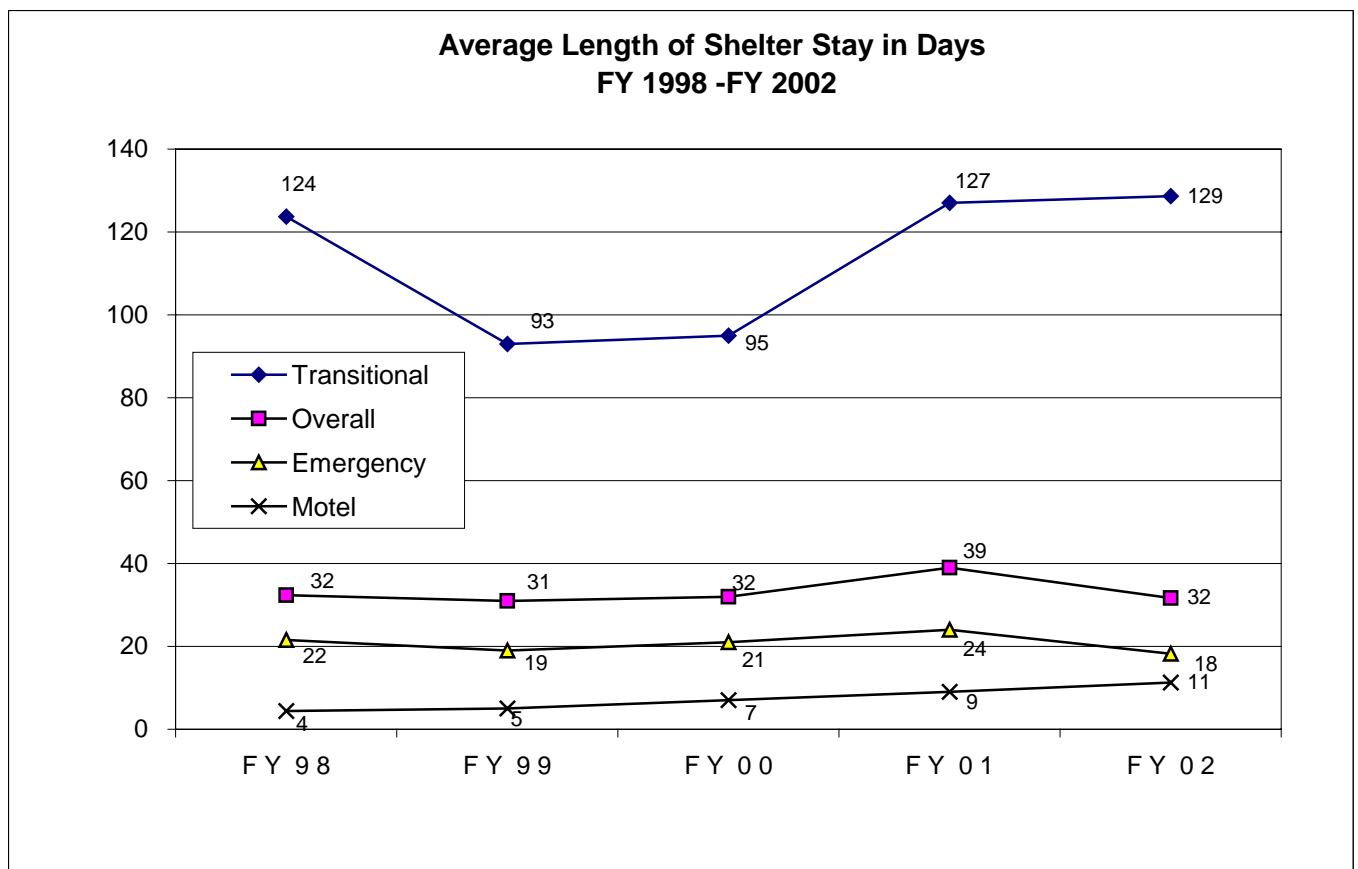
It is important to emphasize that the average length of stay is determined by dividing the number of bednights by the number of people served. The number of people served includes some duplication, whereas the number of bednights does not.

Also, bednight data collected for FY 2002 does not take into account the time spent by the same person at the same shelter before or after FY 2002. If a shelter is full for all 365 days, but each bed turns over once, (serves two different people that fiscal year), then each person's "average" length of stay is 182.5 days, although the person may actually stay for over a year, including the days not in that fiscal year. This figure is therefore most useful in comparing figures from successive years, rather than as an accurate measure of shelter stays.

The decrease in the overall average length of shelter stays can be attributed to a 16.8 percent increase in the number of people sheltered while the number of bednights increased by 5.1 percent.

The length of stay in motel placements has increased every year from an average of 4 nights reported for FY 1998 to an average of 11 nights reported for FY 2002.

In general, transitional housing providers offer more services that enable people to develop life skills and access resources that help move them toward obtaining and sustaining stable and independent housing. Transitional shelter providers report that longer stays afford people the opportunity to acquire resources to move out of the shelter system permanently, particularly given the lack of affordable housing throughout Maryland.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Age, household composition, gender, and ethnicity are the four demographic characteristics collected from shelters. Demographic numbers provided for each jurisdiction may not equal the total number served because some providers do not collect and report some or any demographic data.

AGE

Providers are asked to report the number of people served in four age categories. Not all providers surveyed collect or report age data for people they serve. Of the providers reporting demographic data from FY 2002, Children ages 0 – 17 represented 22.2% of homeless people served by those providers. The largest age category for homeless people served is the 31 to 60 year olds who represented 55.5% of homeless people served in FY 2001. The chart below shows the age breakdown by jurisdiction.

Age Breakdown by Jurisdiction FY 2002

Jurisdiction	0 – 17	18 – 30	31 – 60	61 +
Allegany	135	109	202	17
Anne Arundel	536	184	429	28
Baltimore City	2,738	4,135	14,706	431
Baltimore County	575	317	531	11
Calvert	157	102	137	7
Caroline	35	18	20	1
Carroll	143	203	208	5
Cecil	269	145	448	12
Charles	449	149	266	6
Dorchester	12	39	113	3
Frederick	343	201	347	22
Garrett	29	24	31	2
Harford	241	235	457	39
Howard	340	137	147	2
Kent	10	14	16	0
Montgomery	818	555	1,652	148
Prince George's	1,066	474	1,127	27
Queen Anne's	0	0	3	0
St. Mary's	61	93	45	1
Somerset	8	4	10	0
Talbot	9	15	30	8
Washington	628	532	672	130
Wicomico	113	97	85	0
Worcester	73	94	265	13
State Total	8,788	7,876	21,947	913
Percent	22.2%	19.3%	55.5%	2.3%

HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

Studying the household composition of homeless people served helps to gain insight into the types of programs needed to best serve them. Individuals and families may require different sets of resources. Providers are asked to identify the people they served as individuals or as members of a family. Of the agencies collecting and reporting family status data, family members represent 32% of homeless people served by those agencies. If Baltimore City's data is taken out of the statewide data, the number of family members represents 56.8%. The chart below shows the breakdown of family status by jurisdiction for FY 2002.

Family Status by Jurisdiction FY 2002

Jurisdiction	Individuals	Family Members	% Individuals	% Family Members
Allegany	236	227	51%	49%
Anne Arundel	353	823	30%	70%
Baltimore City	26,112	4,483	85%	15%
Baltimore County	571	946	38%	62%
Calvert	127	276	32%	68%
Caroline	2	72	3%	97%
Carroll	342	220	61%	39%
Cecil	469	448	51%	49%
Charles	221	644	26%	74%
Dorchester	141	26	84%	16%
Frederick	664	721	48%	52%
Garrett	25	53	32%	68%
Harford	534	437	55%	45%
Howard	77	549	12%	88%
Kent	27	13	68%	33%
Montgomery	2,745	3,017	48%	52%
Prince George's	1,049	1,697	38%	62%
Queen Anne's	3	0	100%	0%
St. Mary's	191	231	45%	55%
Somerset	8	14	36%	64%
Talbot	36	23	61%	39%
Washington	969	1,375	41%	59%
Wicomico	105	232	31%	69%
Worcester	338	107	76%	24%
State Total	35,345	16,634	68%	32%

The proportion of homeless people who were served as individuals increased to 68% in FY 2002 from 65% in FY 2001. This is the fourth consecutive year the proportion of homeless people served as individuals has increased from the previous year.

The graph below shows the proportion of homeless people served as individuals in relation to the number of homeless people served as family members for the past five years.

Proprortion of
Homeless People Served
as Individuals and Family Members
FY 1998 - FY 2002

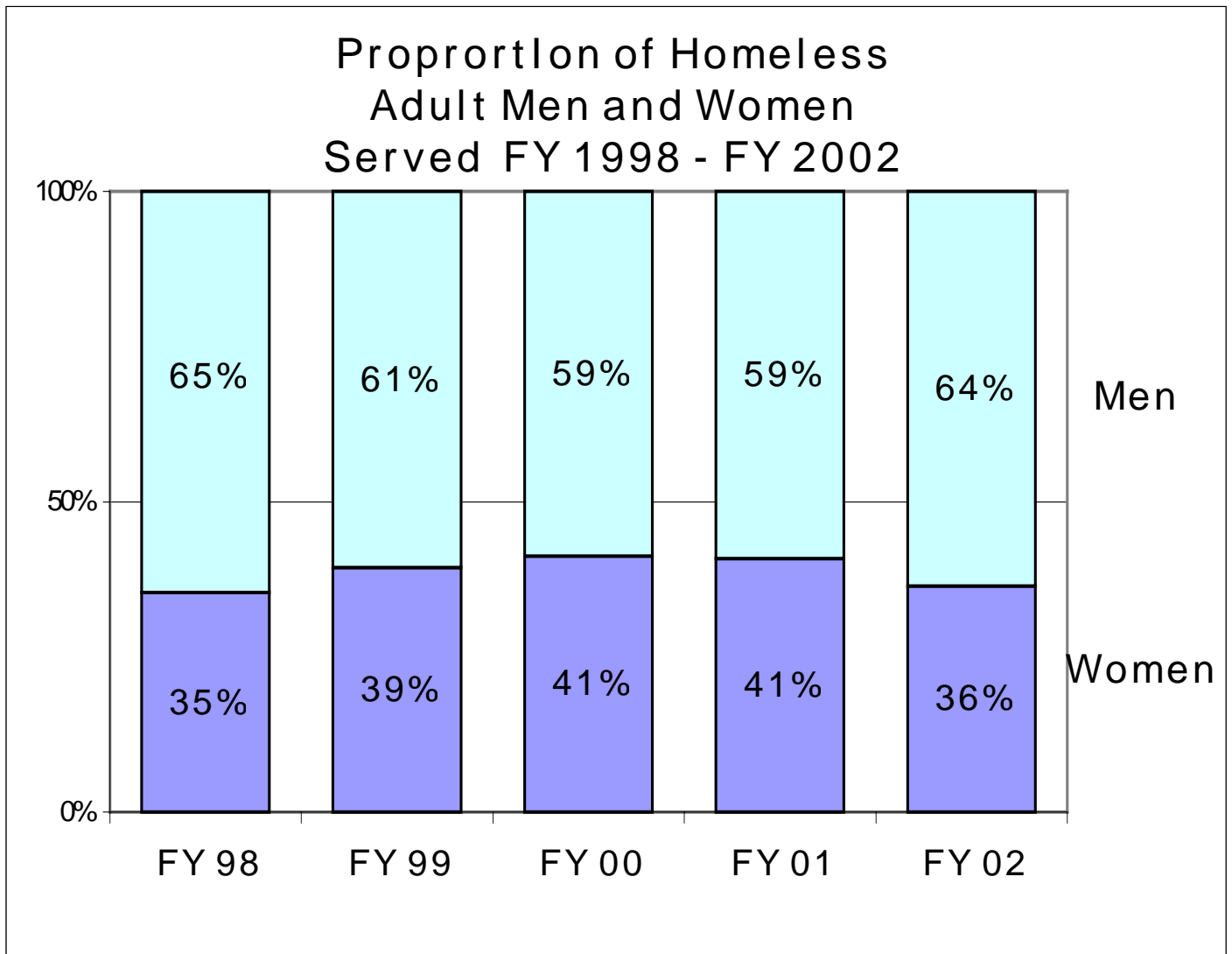|	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02
% Family	43%	42%	36%	35%	32%
% Individual	57%	58%	64%	65%	68%

Legend: ☐ % Individual   ☐ % Family
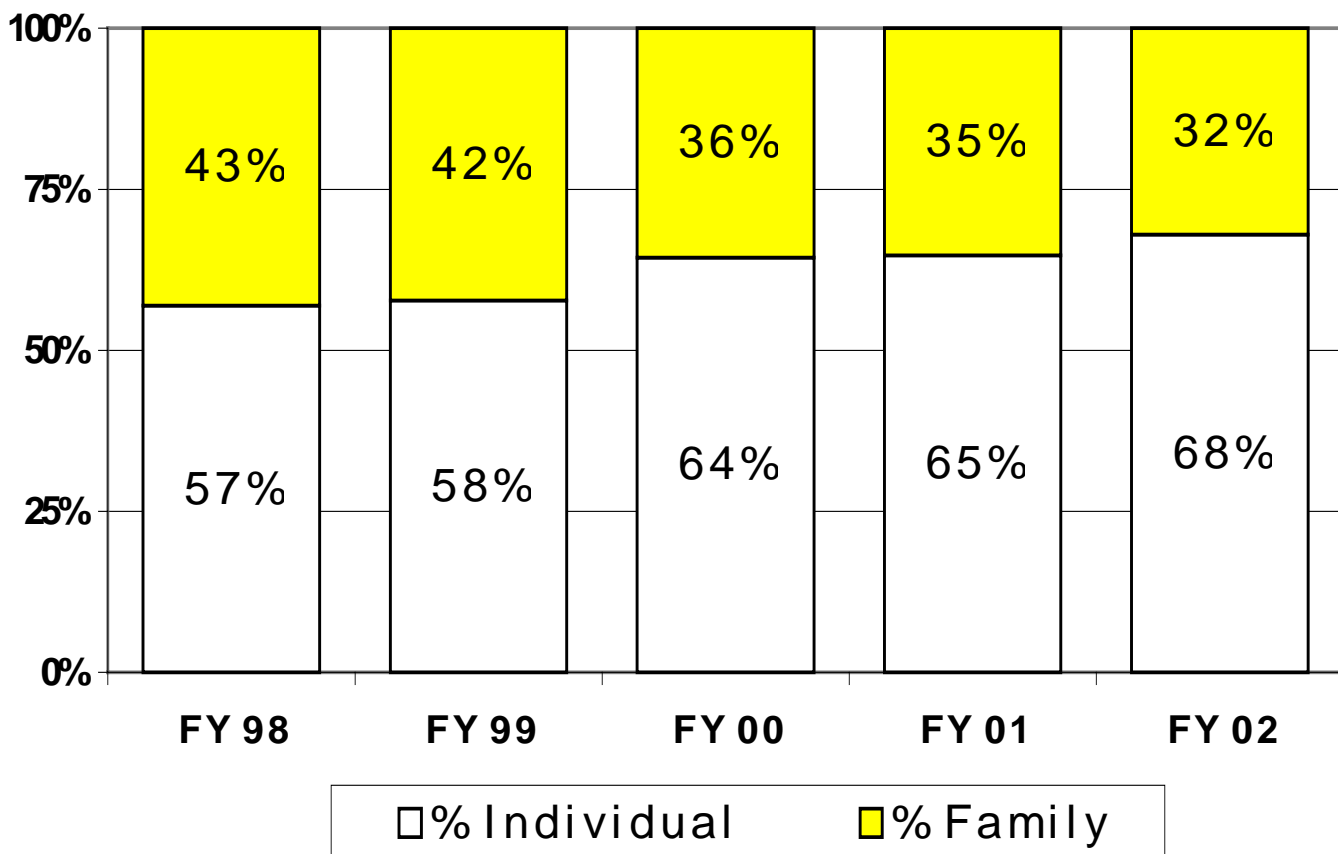
GENDER OF ADULTS

Providers were asked to report the gender of adults (18 years old and older) who were served. Of the agencies that collect and report gender data, women represent 34 percent of adults served in FY 2002. The chart below shows the gender breakdown of homeless people served.

Gender of Adults by Jurisdiction FY 2002

Jurisdiction	Men	Women	% Men	% Women
Allegany	213	131	62%	38%
Anne Arundel	207	433	32%	68%
Baltimore City	19,879	8,922	69%	31%
Baltimore County	317	542	37%	63%
Calvert	77	165	32%	68%
Caroline	4	35	10%	90%
Carroll	299	134	69%	31%
Cecil	159	283	36%	64%
Charles	118	305	28%	72%
Dorchester	115	40	74%	26%
Frederick	524	341	61%	39%
Garrett	28	29	49%	51%
Harford	402	356	53%	47%
Howard	86	182	32%	68%
Kent	12	18	40%	60%
Montgomery	1,613	1,230	57%	43%
Prince George's	792	811	49%	51%
Queen Anne's	1	2	33%	67%
St. Mary's	169	120	58%	42%
Somerset	6	8	43%	57%
Talbot	12	12	50%	50%
Washington	1,038	756	58%	42%
Wicomico	502	393	56%	44%
Worcester	291	136	68%	32%
State Total	26,864	15,384	64%	36%

Note: The numbers shown in the chart above for each jurisdiction may not be equal to the total number of adults served for each jurisdiction because some shelter providers do not collect and report gender data.

The graph below shows the proportion of homeless men and women adults (18 years old and older) from FY 1998 through FY 2002 for shelter providers that collect and report gender data.

Proprortion of Homeless Adult Men and Women Served FY 1998 - FY 2002

	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02
Men	65%	61%	59%	59%	64%
Women	35%	39%	41%	41%	36%

ETHNICITY

The chart below is a breakdown of the ethnicity of people served by jurisdiction for FY 2002. Please note that not all local providers collect and report ethnicity data.

Ethnicity Breakdown by Jurisdiction FY 2002

Jurisdiction	White	African American	Hispanic	Other	Unknown
Allegany	395	48	9	11	0
Anne Arundel	360	431	29	18	271
Baltimore City	3,868	22,671	330	19	1,638
Baltimore County	466	924	13	27	6
Calvert	174	126	12	16	68
Caroline	47	20	2	5	0
Carroll	361	126	25	2	5
Cecil	303	30	4	6	451
Charles	314	532	8	11	0
Dorchester	54	94	17	1	0
Frederick	503	291	16	14	394
Garrett	85	0	1	0	0
Harford	482	344	23	25	81
Howard	163	434	12	17	0
Kent	17	17	0	0	0
Montgomery	899	2,152	437	173	3
Prince George's	274	2,073	65	28	0
Queen Anne's	0	2	0	1	0
St. Mary's	111	64	0	2	8
Somerset	8	14	0	0	0
Talbot	8	13	3	0	0
Washington	1,207	578	38	13	48
Wicomico	132	177	22	6	0
Worcester	227	203	8	7	0
State Total	10,458	31,364	1,074	402	2,973
Percent	22.6 %	67.8 %	2.3%	0.9%	7.2%

The chart below shows the ethnicity of sheltered homeless people served in agencies that collect and report ethnicity data from FY 1998 through FY 2002.

Proportion of Homeless People Served by Ethnicity: FY 1998 - FY 2002

	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	
Hispanic, Other, Unknown	4%	11%	9%	11%	10%	
White	29%	24%	23%	24%	23%	
African American	66%	65%	68%	65%	68%	